

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Recruitment of North Korean Security Guard Forces in South Hamgyong Province	DATE DISTR.	27 February 1953
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1. In mid-September 1952 personnel for the security guard forces under the command of the North Korean Ministry of Internal Affairs were recruited in the Tanch'on-up (N 40-27, E 128-54) (DV-9277) area, South Hamgyong Province. This recruitment was undertaken because of the failure of the self-defense units to function properly.¹ Because of a food shortage, there had been frequent instances of stealing from supply depots. These recruits were to be used to bolster the undermanned self-defense units and to guard supply depots.
2. All men and women in good health between the ages of 16 and 32 were eligible. Although ostensibly on a voluntary basis, the recruitment of men between 16 and 32 was compulsory. The volunteer system was applicable only to women. This recruitment drive differed from that undertaken prior to the outbreak of the Korean war in that all men and women who passed their physical examinations were eligible without regard to their social background or to the recommendations of political or social organizations. The physical examinations were conducted under the supervision of the chief of the military mobilization office by one medical officer of the Tanch'on county military mobilization office and five non-commissioned officers. Those who were physically qualified were returned to their homes to await delivery of a conscription notice.
3. The recruits were given the same treatment as members of the North Korean army and were furnished the same clothing. Each received a daily ration of 800 grams of rice, 15 grams of soybean oil, 15 grams of salt, and 100 grams of bean paste. Other daily necessities were furnished without cost. A private received 80 won per month.

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1. Comment. After the Korean war began, self-defense units were established in every North Korean district and every village. [REDACTED]

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